

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-16 and 21 are pending in the application.

Claims 16 and 21 have been allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8 and 10 have been rejected.

Claims 3, 9 and 11-15 have been objected to.

Claims 1, 9, 11 and 13-15 have been amended, as set forth herein.

Claim 3 has been cancelled herein.

Claims 22-26 have been added herein.

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-16 and 21-26 remain pending in the application.

I. **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Examiner objected to Claims 3, 9 and 11-15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but suggested that Claims 3, 9 and 11-15 would be allowable if it were rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate features recited in Claim 3; and amended Claims 9, 11 and 13-15 as indicated above.

II. **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,526,495 to Sevalia, et al (“Sevalia”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants respectfully submit that *Sevalia* does not teach or suggest each and every element as arranged and recited in currently amended Claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the § 102(e) rejection of Claim 1, and its dependent claims.

III. NEW CLAIMS

The Applicant has added Claims 22-26. The Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. At a minimum, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 22-26 are patentable for one or more reasons discussed above. The Applicants respectfully requests entry and full allowance of Claims 22-26.

IV. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

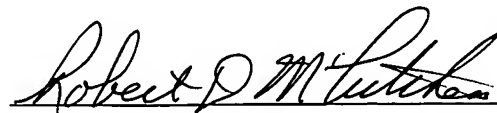
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *rmccutcheon@munckcarter.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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